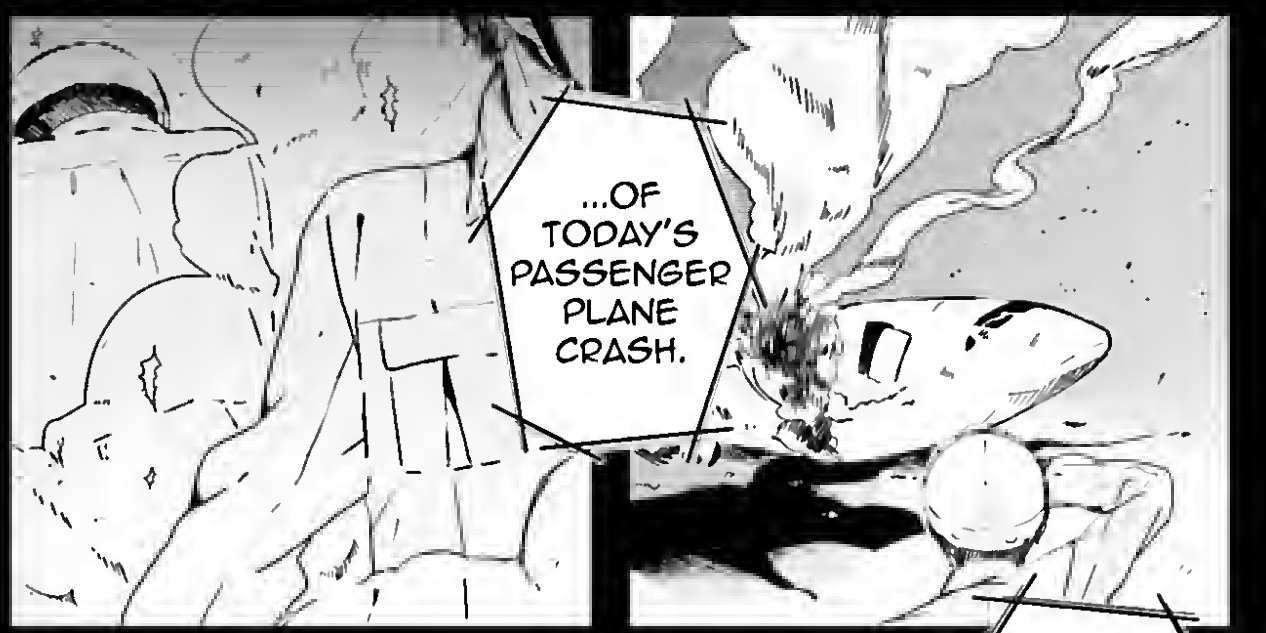
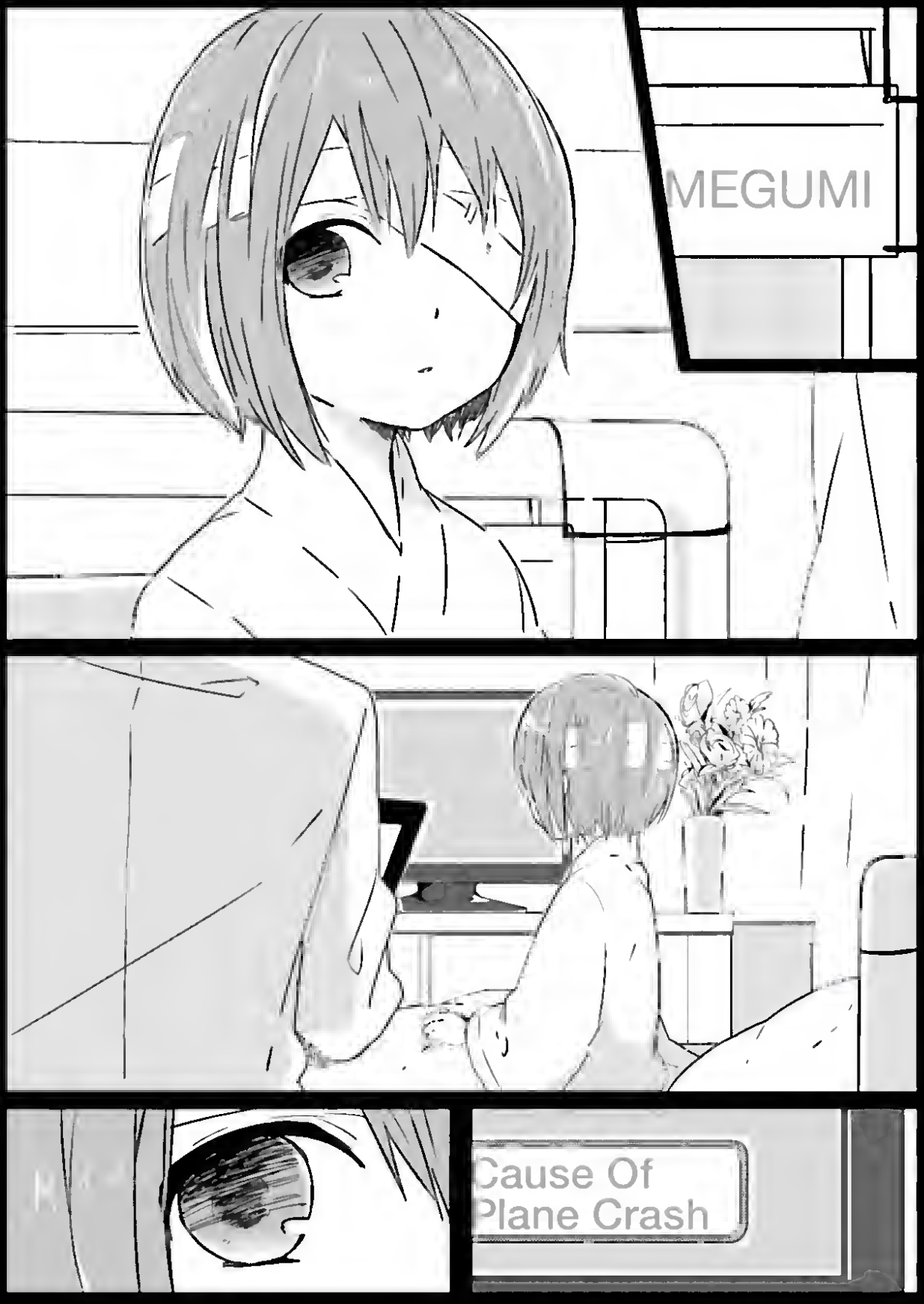
CHAPTER 1

INVESTIG-
ATIONS ARE
UNDERWAY TO
FIND THE
CAUSE...
News Flash!
Passenger Plane Crashes

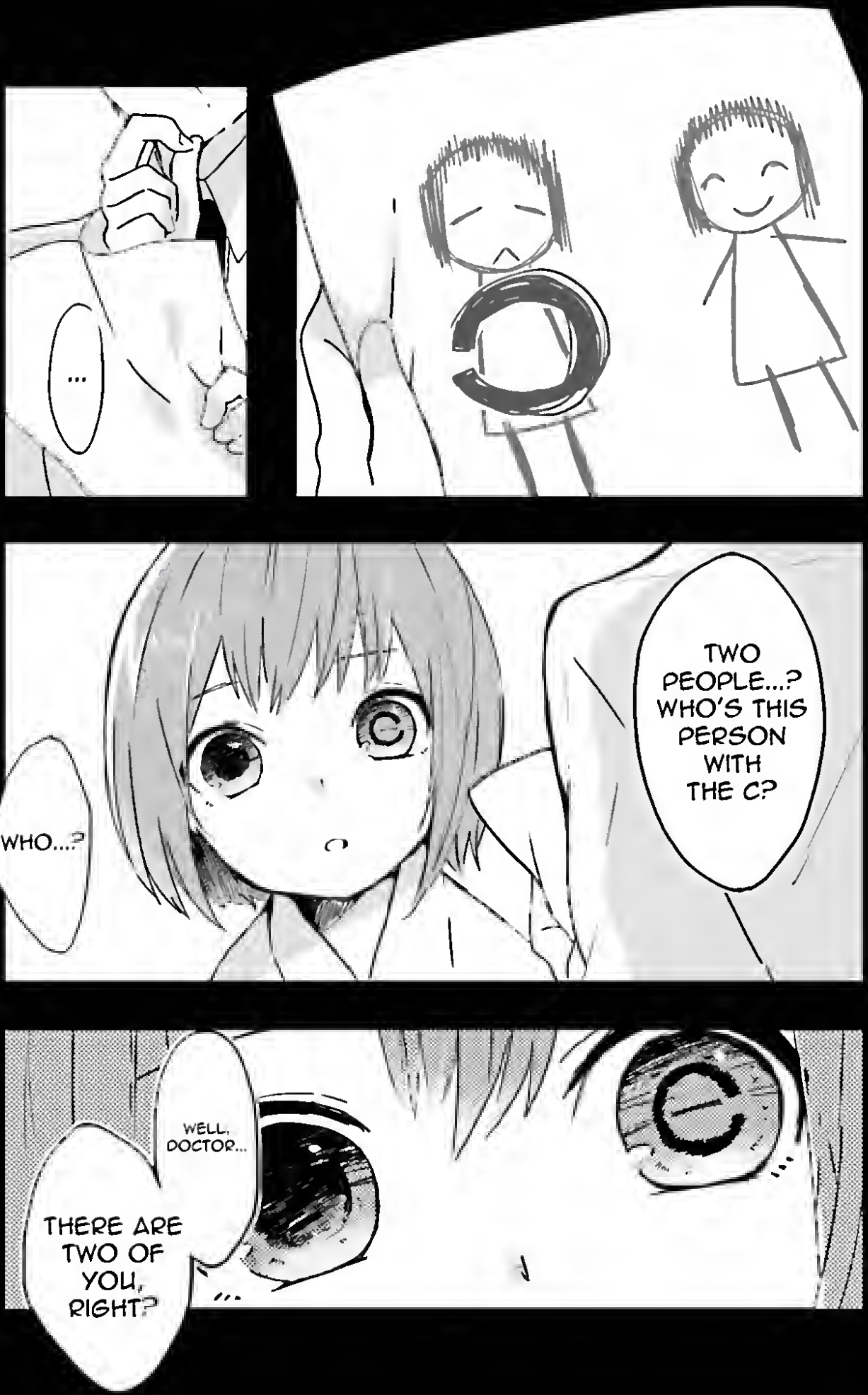

...OF
TODAY'S
PASSENGER
PLANE
CRASH.

SO FAR, NO
SURVIVORS
HAVE BEEN
FOUND...
HEY!
WE
FOUND
ONE!

A SURVIVOR!
THERE APPEARS TO BE A SURVIVOR!


MEGUMI
Cause Of
Plane Crash

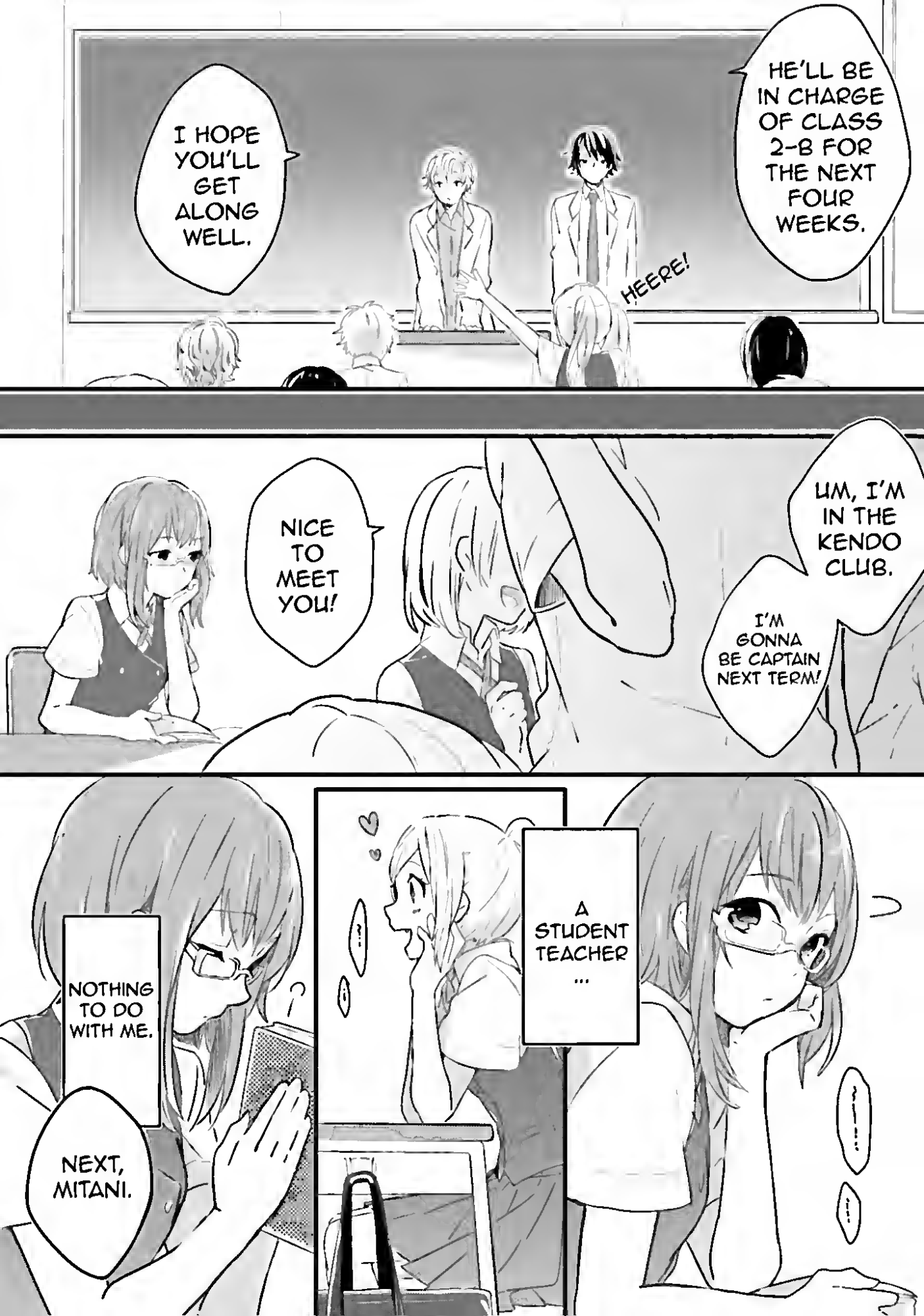
MEGUMI
MAY I LOOK?
YEAH...
ARE YOU DRAWING ME?

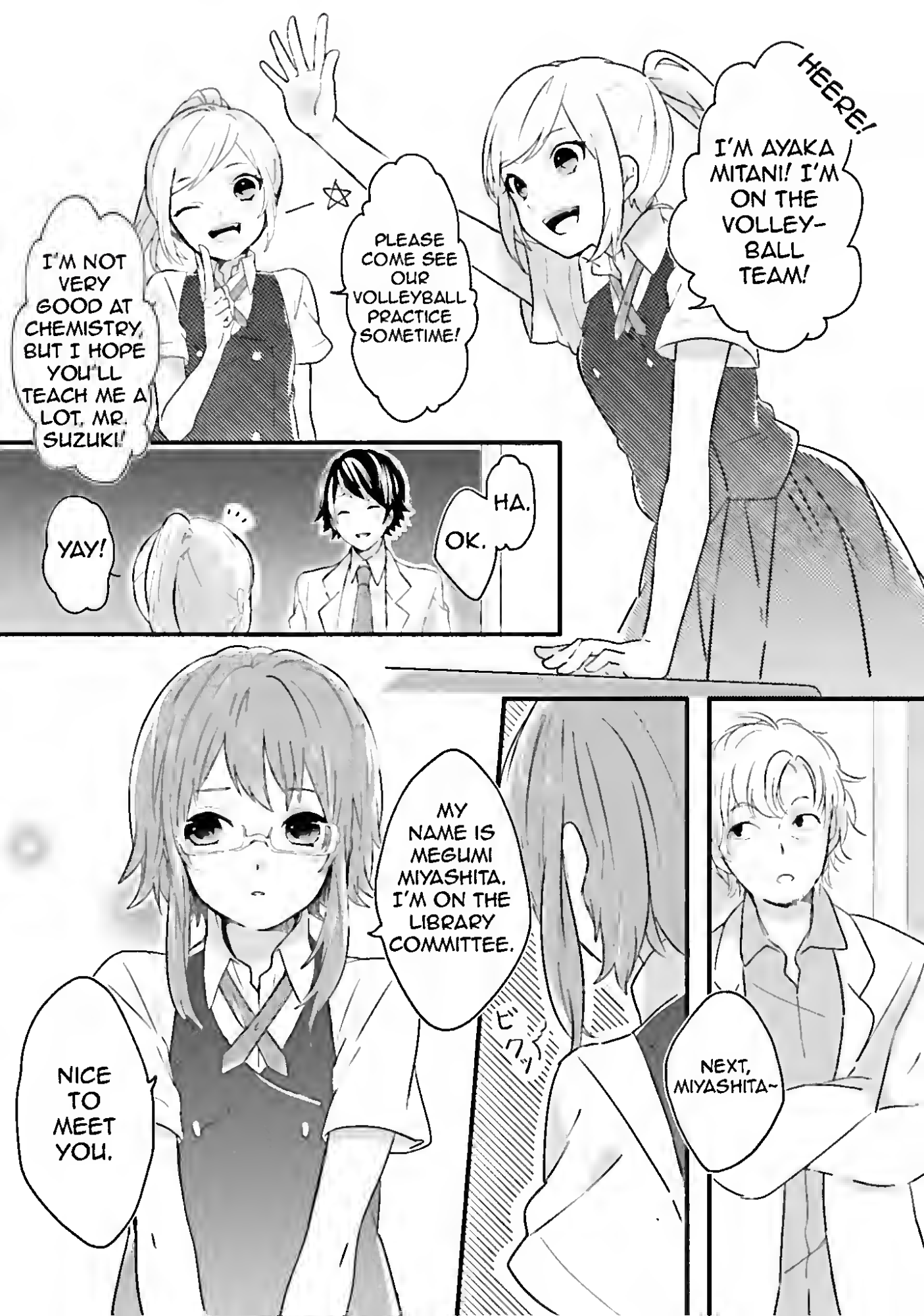

...
TWO PEOPLE...? WHO'S THIS PERSON WITH THE C?
WHO...?
WELL, DOCTOR...
THERE ARE TWO OF YOU, RIGHT?

CHAPTER 1
DAY OF GREETING

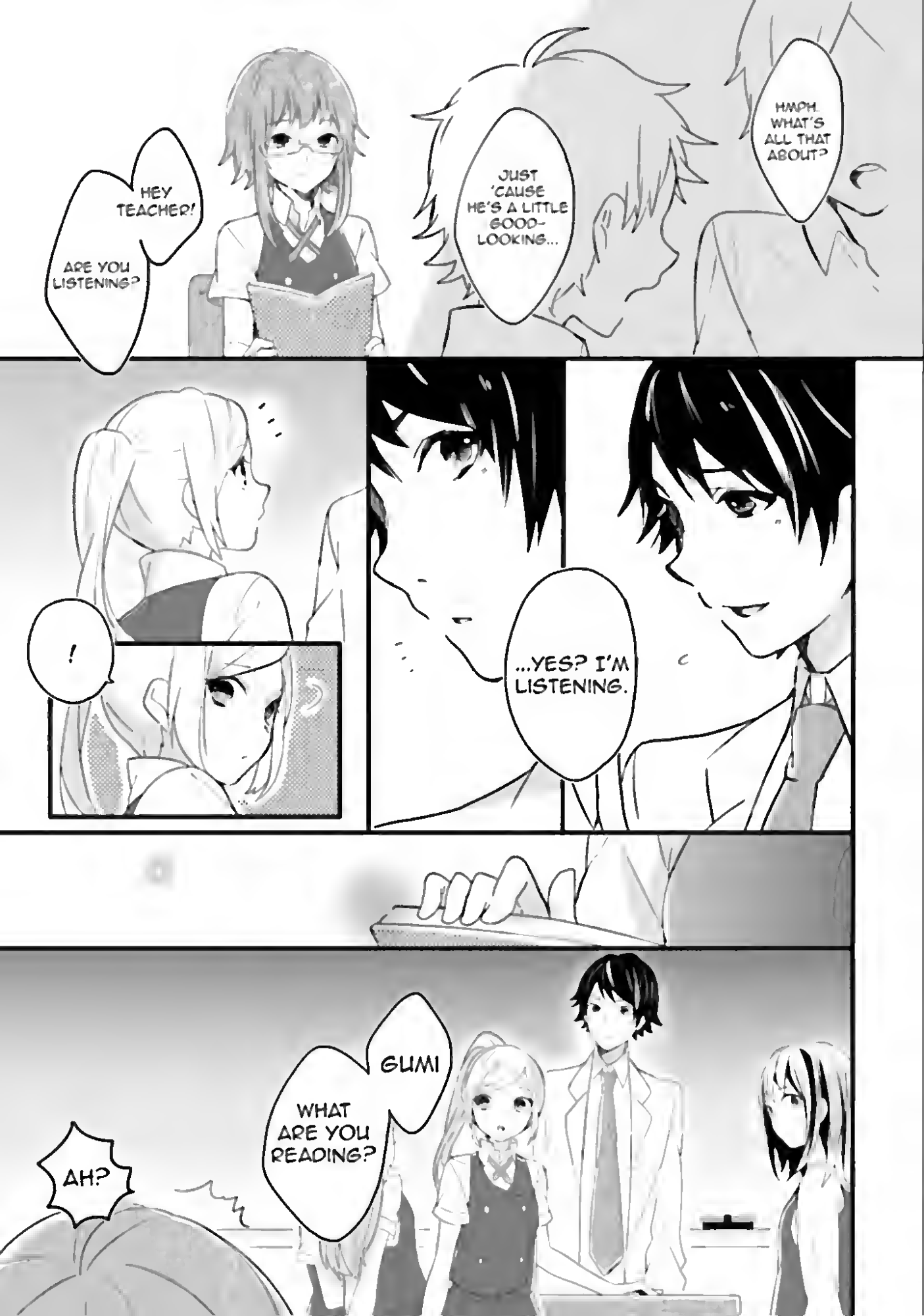
13 YEARS LATER
HEY, GUMI!
I HEARD WE'RE GETTING A STUDENT TEACHER TODAY!
I WONDER IF HE'S HAND-SOME♥
...
ガラッ
IT'S CLASS TIME...

WANNA INTRODUCE YOURSELF?
LISTEN UP.
THIS IS MR. SUZUKI.
TODAY I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR STUDENT TEACHER.
MY NAME IS SHOHEI SUZUKI.
I TEACH CHEMISTRY.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.


HE'LL BE IN CHARGE OF CLASS 2-B FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS.
I HOPE YOU'LL GET ALONG WELL.
HEERE!
UM, I'M IN THE KENDO CLUB.
I'M GONNA BE CAPTAIN NEXT TERM!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
A STUDENT TEACHER ...
NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
NEXT, MITANI.


HEERE!
I'M AYAKA MITANI! I'M ON THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM!
PLEASE COME SEE OUR VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE SOMETIME!
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT CHEMISTRY, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL TEACH ME A LOT, MR. SUZUKI!
HA. OK.
YAY!
NEXT, MIYASHITA~
ビクッ
MY NAME IS MEGUMI MIYASHITA. I'M ON THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

はぁ
EH?
WHAT?
HEY, MR. SUZUKI!
DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
NO, I DON'T.
EH?
REALLY?
WHAT COLLEGE DO YOU GO TO?

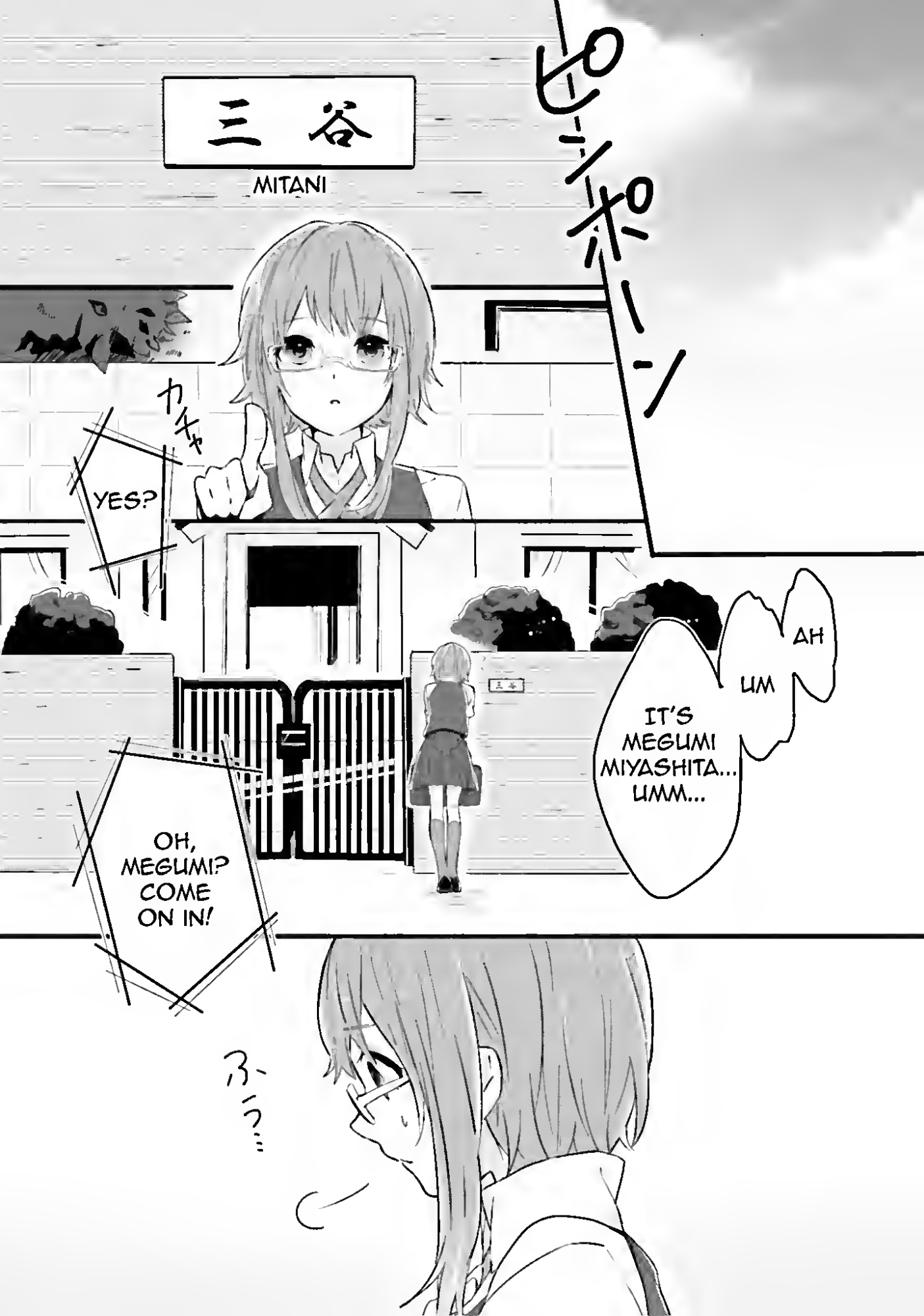

HMPH. WHAT'S ALL THAT ABOUT?
JUST 'CAUSE HE'S A LITTLE GOOD-LOOKING...
HEY TEACHER!
ARE YOU LISTENING?
...YES? I'M LISTENING.
!
GUMI
WHAT ARE YOU READING?
AH?

LET'S TALK A LITTLE.
COME ON.
WE'VE GOT A NEW STUDENT TEACHER.
AYAKA...
UH...
THIS IS MEGUMI MIYASHITA.
BUT I CALL HER GUMI!
AH, YES.
YOU'RE ON THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE, RIGHT?

I LIKE BOOKS TOO. PLEASE SHOW ME WHERE THE LIBRARY IS SOMETIME.
HUH...?
WHAT WAS THAT BEFORE ...
OH, RIGHT!
TEACH-ER!
Staff Room
MAYBE I IMAGINED IT...
...IT COULDN'T BE.
MEGUMI MIYASHITA
SURVIVOR
(ONE PERSON)
MEGUMI MIYASHITA

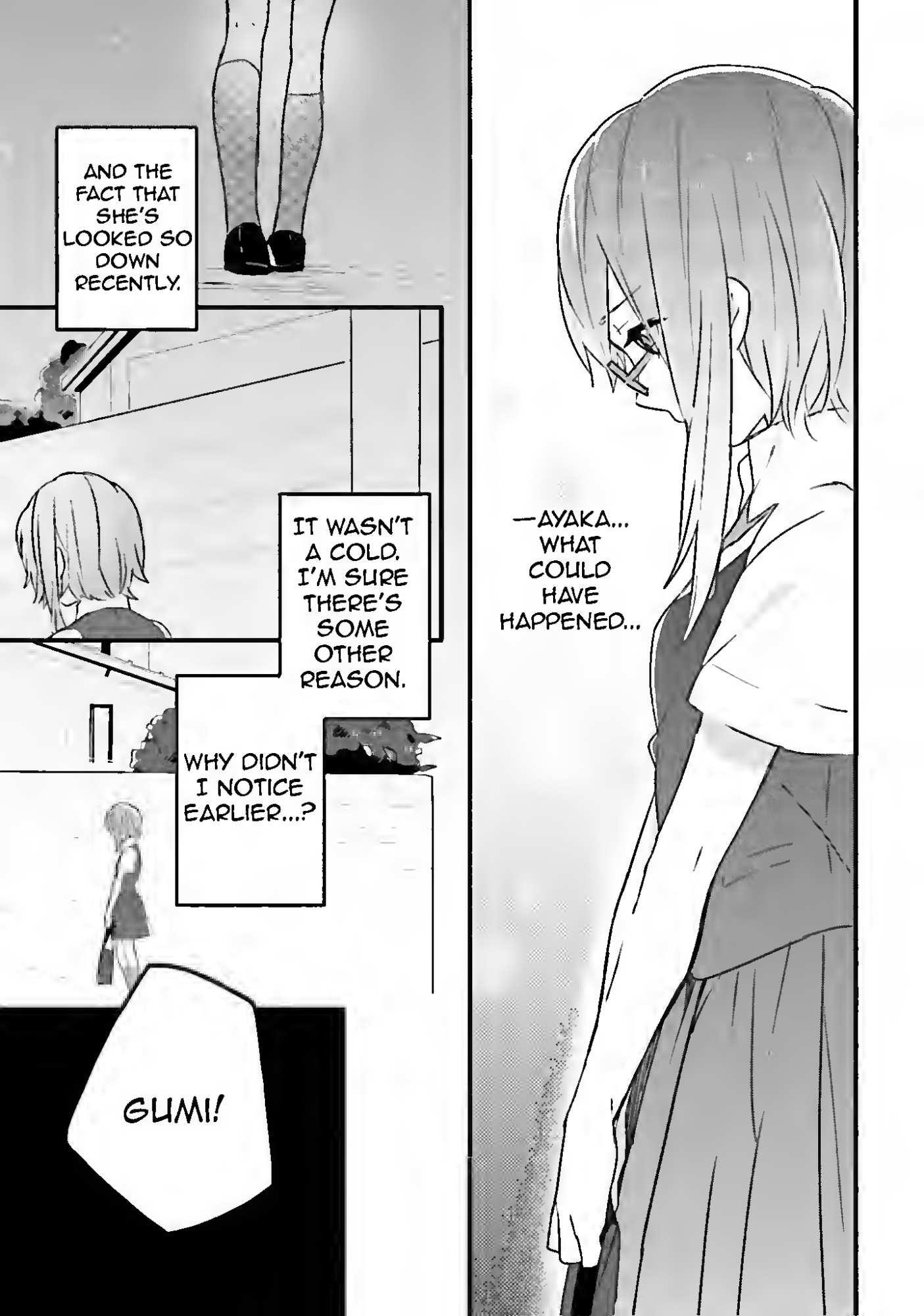
1 WEEK LATER
AYAKA...
...
HE'S GETTING ALONG WELL WITH THE BOYS...
THE TEACHER SAID SHE HAD A COLD.
I HOPE SHE'S OK...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHE HASN'T SEEMED HER USUAL CHEERFUL SELF RECENTLY...
I WONDER IF SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL...
SHE USUALLY REPLIES RIGHT AWAY...
I HOPE SHE HASN'T COLLAPSED OR ANYTHING...
SHE HASN'T REPLIED TO THE MAIL I SENT THIS MORNING...
To: Ayaka Mitani
How's your cold? Can I go see you today?
No New Mail


三谷
MITANI
ピーンポーン
カチャ
YES?
AH
UM
IT'S MEGUMI MIYASHITA... UMM...
OH, MEGUMI? COME ON IN!
ふーっ...

WELC-OME!
YOU'VE SURE GROWN UP!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
UMMM... ABOUT AYAKA...
IS SHE OK...?
SHE WON'T COME OUT OF HER ROOM...?
EH?
UH... YEAH... YOU SEE...
SHE WON'T COME OUT OF HER ROOM...
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

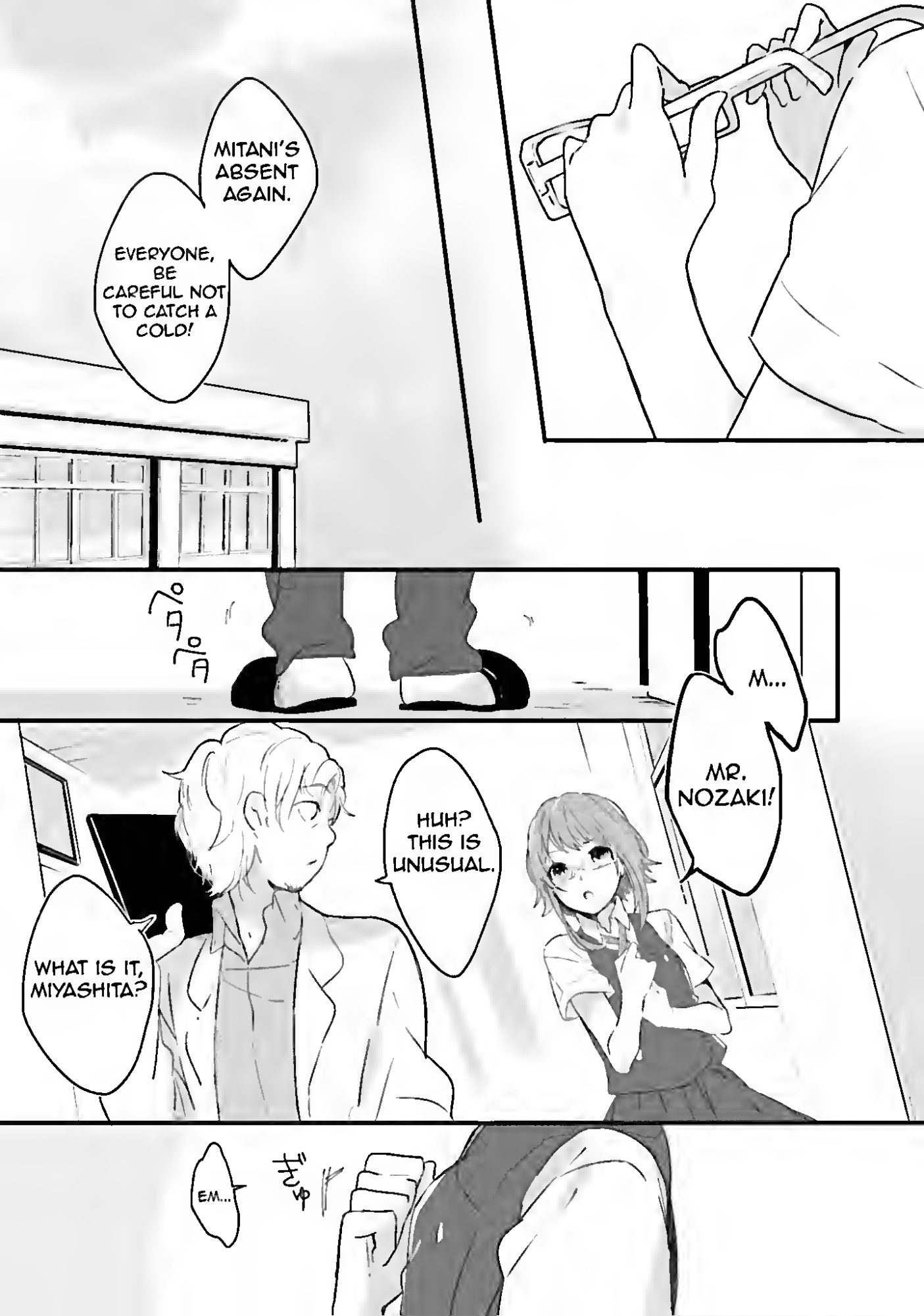
NO, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING...
SHE DOESN'T REPLY WHEN I TALK TO HER...
SHE'S EATEN THE FOOD I LEFT OUTSIDE HER ROOM, SO SHE MUST BE OK...
SO IT'S NOT A COLD...
...I SEE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PLEASE TELL HER THAT I CAME TO SEE HER.
AH OK...
WHAT COULD IT BE...
ピタッ
トボトボ...


—AYAKA... WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED...
AND THE FACT THAT SHE'S LOOKED SO DOWN RECENTLY.
IT WASN'T A COLD. I'M SURE THERE'S SOME OTHER REASON.
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE EARLIER...?
GUMI!

I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU, GUMI!

THAT'S RIGHT... EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
AYAKA'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE TO RESCUE ME.
AND YET...
I WASN'T THERE TO LISTEN TO HER TROUBLES.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING CAUSING THEM, I WANT TO HELP.
HUH...?

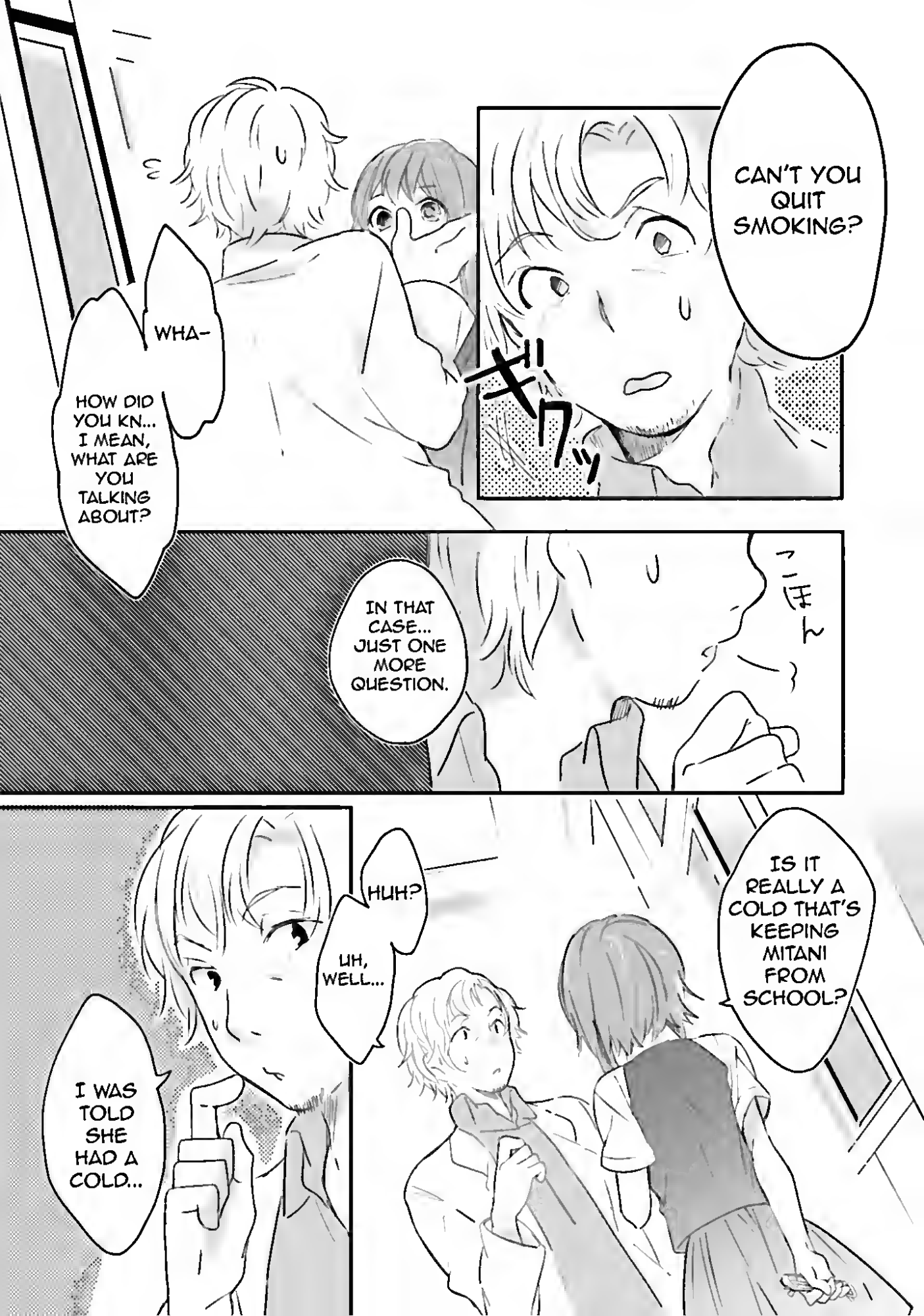
MEGUMI MIYASHITA...?
A CAUSE...


MITANI'S ABSENT AGAIN.
EVERYONE, BE CAREFUL NOT TO CATCH A COLD!
ガラガラ
M...
MR. NOZAKI!
HUH? THIS IS UNUSUAL.
WHAT IS IT, MIYASHITA?
EM...
ぎゅ

UMM... IS THERE SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, MR. NOZAKI?
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF THE SUDDEN?
NOTHING, NOTHING.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.

EVEN IF THERE WAS, YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T TELL A STUDENT.
WELL ...
RECENTLY MY WIFE'S REALLY BEEN NAGGING ME ABOUT MY SMOKING...

AND CIGARETTES HAVE GOTTEN REALLY EXPENSIVE.
I'VE BEEN FEELING PRETTY BAD ABOUT IT...
?
MIYASHITA?
MR. NOZAKI.


CAN'T YOU QUIT SMOKING?
ギクッ
WHA-
HOW DID YOU KN... I MEAN, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IN THAT CASE... JUST ONE MORE QUESTION.
ふー
IS IT REALLY A COLD THAT'S KEEPING MITANI FROM SCHOOL?
HUH?
UH, WELL...
I WAS TOLD SHE HAD A COLD...

THIS TIME HE'S NOT LYING...
I SEE... THANK YOU.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WITH THESE QUESTIONS.
UH... OK...?
?
?
?
ガシッ

MR. NOZAKI WASN'T LYING ABOUT THE COLD.
SO SOMEONE ELSE MUST BE LYING...
WHO TOLD THE TEACHER SHE HAD A COLD...?
MIYASHITA.

JUST NOW, WHEN YOU WERE TALKING TO MR. NOZAKI,
WHY DID YOU TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES?
HUH?!